



No. 10 – 15 June 2023

HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth – Diogenes (Greek philosopher)

When time and space and change converge, we find place. We arrive in Place when we resolve things. Place is peace of mind and understanding. Place is knowledge of self. Place is resolution. The words of iconic Capetonian, Abdullah Ibrahim speak to a sense of place that supersedes the physical into the psycho-emotional and social dimensions of belonging and being. They define belonging.

It is Youth Day on Friday 16th June, a day for sombre recollection of the loss of lives of young South Africans who courageously stood up against the Apartheid state between 1974 and 1976, protesting the language policy instituted in schools.

Our original plan was just to get to Orlando West, pledge our solidarity and sing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Then we thought we would have made our point and we would go back home. No one envisaged a process that would go beyond June 16th. Little did we expect the kind of reaction that we got from the police on that day. (Murphy Morobe, an organiser of the march)

In 1974 when the language policy was passed, black pupils – an estimated 20 000 pupils – began to mobilise themselves to protest against the government's directive which made Afrikaans a compulsory language of instruction. Pupils planned to

meet at Orlando Stadium as borne out by Morobe but were met along the way by heavily armed police who fired teargas, and then live ammunition into the crowd. Many pupils were shot and killed by police. The images that were shared around the world caused shock waves and heightened awareness around the injustices and atrocities in South Africa under Apartheid rule. This event became a catalyst for an uprising against the government that lasted through the 1980s, until resistance movements were unbanned in 1990. Four years later, in 1994, democracy was born in South Africa. This came at a huge cost to the youth, to young black South Africans, who were discriminated against during the Apartheid era and to many who lived their lives apart from their loved ones, as members of the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe. This legacy of systemic injustice has damaged our country irreparably.

One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.
(Martin Luther King Jr.)

In the 1970s, (and earlier than this) young South Africans recognised the insidiousness of an educational system designed to segregate and suppress; an inferior offering, and began to express their outrage, leading to the action decided upon in June 1976. This sacrifice underpins, to this day, the foundational importance of education (just as it highlighted systemic inequities and apartheid injustices), along with the courage, conviction and

commitment of the youth through their actions against authorities who perpetuated injustices.

Youth Day pays tribute to the power of young people to act together against injustice. Historically, it has been young black students who have taken the lead in this regard, but in recent years a more diverse representation of young South Africans has rallied together against authorities, demanding accountability and support.

Reflecting on 2013, and #BlackLivesMatter (which may have originated in America, but which rapidly became a global movement calling out racism and police brutality), we see the impact of this movement/campaign on the youth, both in terms of its conscientizing and its call to action, which has led to an 'awakening' of young South Africans to societal issues and inequities.

#BlackLivesMatter was followed by the #rhodesmustfall and #feesmustfall movements which gained traction rapidly through social media platforms, as well as through highly publicised, charged meetings and clashes between university administrators and student leadership across the country, as reported in the media. Here again, students challenged systemic injustices, the colonial legacy and resultant inequities, and the government's failure to deliver on educational promises and goals. This underlined the importance and value of education to young people wanting to build their lives in a new South Africa.

In May and June of 2020, five years after #rhodesmustfall and #feesmustfall, the #yousilenceweamplify social media campaign called out systemic inequities, injustices, and racist experiences at schools, in particular, independent schools and ex Model C schools. Many Herschelians recounted painful experiences at our school, Herschel

Girls School, referencing racist experiences and offensive comments, exclusion, micro-aggressions, biases, and a sense of disconnection with respect to a curriculum that was neither inclusive nor representative; one which perpetuated what Nigerian novelist, Chimamanda Adichie warns against, *the danger of a single story*.

Here again, young women spoke truth to power. The courage and conviction, vulnerability, and pain evident in the experiences expressed, forced our school and many schools to reflect and self-examine their practices at a systemic level. The words of Maya Angelou, the late American poet and civil rights activist come to mind: *There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you*.

The #yousilenceweamplify campaign prompted investigations into past practices and policies at our school, led to the reworking of policies having regard to equity and belonging, including an anti-racism statement, co-written by teachers and pupils. The Student Transformation Mission document was produced over two years with input from students in the 2018 -2020 year-groups. This important document provided insight into how some of the traditional practices and ways of doing things at Herschel needed to change to become more inclusive and representative for all pupils.

Subsequent to the social media campaign, there have been several educational initiatives (at school and via ISASA) introduced to educate and sensitise teachers and pupils on matters of race, culture, identity, equity and belonging. There is an intentional focus on creating awareness and ensuring that our school community is inclusive and safe; a place in which each person can belong fully.

Young people have a vital role to play in building this country. They need our support and encouragement, especially since they face several challenges: unemployment, inconsistent educational standards and a lack of accountability with regard to the delivery of a decent education, increased disparity between those who have and those who do not, several overlapping socio-economic challenges and a pervasive local and global sense of uncertainty in a 'not so brave' new world (with apologies to Aldous Huxley).

Despite this, the youth of 2023 is not apathetic. They are taking ownership of their issues and saying that things need to change. They are impatient with the rate of change and impatient with incompetency and a lack of delivery from adults and leaders in positions of influence and power. Their mantra for leadership has more to do with impact than title. Impact and representation are massively important because they are tangible and support action. Our pupils are ready for conversation, discussion, and debate to promote growth, learning, meaningful connection and accountability.

*There is a difference between entering a public conversation with the aim of ending it and entering it with the aim of enriching the conversation by clarifying it, bringing others in, and holding the line against those who aim to circumscribe or poison it. There is a difference between understanding public conversation as a performance and understanding it as an invitation. (Richard Pithouse , *The forge*)*

This insightful and empowering viewpoint is something we need to actively pursue at Herschel. Eusebius McKaiser's recent passing should serve to remind us of the importance of rigorous debate as a feature of dynamic democracy. He advocated fiercely for change and progress, demanding accountability and inclusion, respect, and dignity for all people. He delved so deeply into issues that divide people in our country, reaching diverse audiences and challenging mindsets.

As a school head, I have found that young adults are (generally) more open-minded and open-hearted than many of the adults in their world. They are, for example, more comfortable with concepts of self-identification. They judge less. They are more accepting. They are receptive to challenging conversations and they want to understand. (They are often rightfully not forgiving of the behaviours of the adults in their lives, and this is part of our ongoing education and growth). They are educating us on what they want and need in order to build bridges and to make progress towards a more inclusive and functional democracy. They are aware of their need to respond and to contribute towards building a better South Africa. They want to see and experience a more equitable society, to live in a country where belonging is not a distant vision but a lived reality. They are more aware of environmental concerns and the importance of sustainability. They are curious about the possibilities that AI and augmented reality present in an ever-evolving world.

Young South Africans are uncertain about what their future will look like. They have experienced disruption, lockdown, self-isolation and multiple narratives concerning race, culture and identity and they are wondering what is expected of them. The world they have been handed is a mess and they feel responsible for fixing it. They have been told to be vulnerable, resilient, forgiving, courageous, focused and flexible, self-motivated and collaborative. These responsibilities also accumulate, resulting in enormous pressure and a sense of urgency when it comes to facing and solving these challenges.

We need to look at how we can support this, within a framework of accountability, inclusion, and consultation – all of which can be practiced within our school in meaningful ways. We are committed to this.

Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value. (Desmond Tutu)

As parents, teachers and as a Herschel community let's focus on the extraordinary promise that each pupil in our care possesses. Let's practice and promote "ordinary acts of love and hope".

This Friday, 16th June, let's pause as we reflect on the courage and actions of young black South Africans in Soweto in 1976, let's remember their sacrifice with the respect it deserves.

As a place of growth and learning let's remember the value that lies in a holistic education and let's celebrate the opportunities that we have to learn to make a difference.

Let's take on board community values that contribute towards growth, that allow us to lean in towards each other and to support, love, encourage and inspire our pupils to rebuild this democracy and to frame it within the values of courage, hard work, social awareness, respect, kindness and community.

Let's tread gently with the purpose, grace and resolve needed to move forward together. Let's honour the wisdom in Abdullah Ibrahim's words: *We arrive in Place when we resolve things. Place is peace of mind and understanding. Place is knowledge of self. Place is resolution.*

Enjoy the long weekend ahead.

Warm regards,

Heather

Become A SPONSOR!

An opportunity for sponsorship!

We are wanting to install electronic signboards at the entrances to the Preparatory and Senior schools and are hoping that there might be a parent/organisation looking for a sponsorship opportunity in the educational space. The signboards will assist us with communication, notices and updates on a daily and weekly basis and sponsors will be permitted to run their advertorial content in between this school information.

Please contact

marketing@herschel.org.za should you be interested in finding out more about this sponsorship opportunity.

Happy
Father's Day

INTERHOUSE SINGING

We invite all parents and siblings to join us, dressed in your House colours, for a fun night celebrating **Women in Music!**

This is a fun event involving all pupils; therefore, it is compulsory for all pupils to be in attendance to help their House **hit all the right notes!**

Each House will perform the set song: a song chosen in collaboration with the House Heads and Music department...this puts everyone on a **level stage**

Each House will also perform a chosen song: a song chosen by the House leaders within the theme *Women in Music*...this allows for each House to put their *own notes* out there.



**INTERHOUSE
SINGING
2023**

*CELEBRATING:
women in Music*

**22 JUNE
18:00**

SPORTS CENTRE
DRESS IN YOUR HOUSE COLOURS

Term Three starts on 18 July – the day we celebrate **Mandela Day**. As a school, we would like to engage in our 67 minutes of service and each House has chosen a cause they would like to support.

If anyone has any of the items shown in the posters – for your daughter’s House or any other – please drop them off in the Atrium next week in the marked boxes.

Working together *we can make a big difference!*

67 MINUTES FOR MANDELA DAY:

CARTER will be

MAKING PLAY PACKS FOR KIDS

Each pack contains:
 1 set of play dough (4 different colours)
 1 mini colouring book

18 July:
 Each tutor class makes :
 4 different colour batches of dough (8-9 playpacks)
 and
 9 mini colouring books (templates for cut-out will be provided)
 and
 Packaging will be provided

EACH TUTOR CLASS TO BRING:

- 1 x 2.5kg flour
- 1 x 500g packet of salt
- 3 x small packets of cream of tartar
- 1 cup oil
- *Food colouring will be provided*

PLEASE BRING

- MIXING BOWLS
- BLACK FINELINER/KOKI
- SCISSORS
- PRITT

There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.
 - Nelson Mandela

MANDELA DAY

JAGGER JARS OF HOPE

18 JULY 2023

Jagger jars of hope are filled with:

- 1/2 cup rice / shell pasta
- 1/2 cup (dry) 4 in 1 soup mix
- 1/2 cup lentils
- 1 unwrapped stock cube
- 1 packet soup powder - eg. Brown onion soup, mushroom soup
- A large jar eg. coffee, mayo, gherkins, beetroot jars

67 MINUTES OF SERVICE

Mandela Day
 July 18

ROLT SLEEPING BAGS

START COLLECTING NOW:

- NEWSPAPERS
- CLEAR GARBAGE BAGS
- PACKING TAPE

67 MINUTES FOR MANDELA

Merriman House
 A place to call their own

#MANDELA DAY

Dog beds/blankets
 Collecting material off-cuts (preferably of the thicker kind/tough material/bull denim) and stuffing for making the beds/blankets

TAKE ACTION.
 INSPIRE CHANGE.
 MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY!



HERSCHEL



FIRST AID COURSE



Course will be presented if six or more pupils register.

1

DATE: 8-10 September

2

LOCATION: Senior
School (venue TBC)

3

LEVEL: Level 1

4

REGISTRATION CLOSES:
18 August 2023

5

COST: R600.00

6

PAYMENT METHOD:
EFT/Karri App
Herschel Association
First National Bank
Cheque Acct. 50151103336
Ref: Surname + First Aid



Please bring your POP to Ms Klopper to confirm your registration.
For more information, please email Ms Klopper at aklopper@herschel.org.za

Sports Wrap

We are very proud of the Herschel squash and hockey teams for qualifying to take part in the Top Schools Tournaments from Wednesday 9 August to Saturday 12 August.

HERSCHEL SQUASH AND HOCKEY TEAMS QUALIFY FOR TOP SCHOOLS



1st Team Squash



U14A HOCKEY



U16A HOCKEY



1ST TEAM HOCKEY

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Squash

We are proud of the squash players who have been selected to various Western Province Teams. Congratulations to Leah Burns, Zoë Arenhold and Rachel Howie for their selection to the u19 WP team and to Georgia Morkel for her selection to the u16 WP team.

We wish the Basketball, Hockey and Squash players all the best for the upcoming interprovincial tournaments taking place during the school holiday.

HERSCHFIELD 2023

CROSS COUNTRY



Thursday 27 July at
Springfield

SQUASH



Thursday 27 July at
Herschel

SOCCER



Friday 28 July at
Springfield

NETBALL



Friday 28 July at
Springfield

HOCKEY



Friday 28 July at
Springfield

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR
EXCITING ADDITION TO
HERSCHFIELD



More details to follow in Term 3

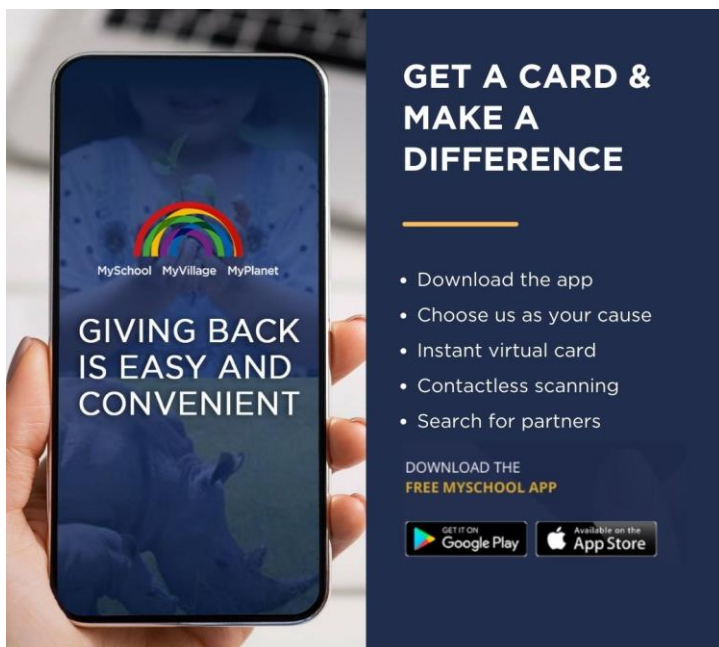
HAU WINTER DINNER

We would like to extend an invitation to all members of the Herschel family, their partners, children, and friends, to join us at our annual Winter Dinner on Wednesday 16th August at 6pm in the Mary Jagger Hall. Tickets are available through Quicket [here](#). We encourage the whole family to join for this wonderful night out.

Your ticket includes a three-course meal, drinks, and an address by Herschel Alumna, Melanie Rice, titled 'Fact or Fiction: #Behind the Scenes of TV News.' We are delighted that Melanie, the national news anchor of eTV's flagship news bulletin, eTV News at 8, has accepted our invitation to speak.

When you book your dinner tickets, you will see that there is an option to add a donation to your ticket price. All money raised will be going towards the HAU contribution to the Herschel Bursary Fund, an extremely worthwhile cause, and we have set a target for R5000 to be raised through the hosting of this event.





WHEN YOU SHOP AT WOOLWORTHS AND OTHER MYSCHOOL PARTNERS - PLEASE SWIPE YOUR MYSCHOOL CARD!

Help raise funds for our **Herschel Learnership Programme** with your MySchool card, without it costing you a cent. Herschel has up to three learnership staff annually. These staff receive a small monthly salary, university tuition and prescribed textbooks all paid for out of the MySchool proceeds. Once qualified, they can take up permanent teaching posts and have the benefit of teaching experience.

MySchool raises over R8 million for schools, and charities, every month! The best part: it does not cost you as a supporter a cent to make a difference.

How does MySchool work?

You can make a difference, just by shopping at one of the many MySchool partners.

These include Woolworths, Engen Quick Shop, Loot.co.za, Netstar, Worksheetcloud, to name just a few.

Every time you use your card at any of the partner stores, a percentage of your purchase value will be given back on your behalf to our school, at absolutely no cost to you!

To view a more comprehensive list of local business partners [click here](#).

Support a beneficiary close to your heart!

How to become a supporter?

To become a supporter, you need to be registered with MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet and select Herschel as your beneficiary.

- Our Virtual MySchool Card is now on your phone!

Download for FREE on the App Store or Google Play Store, sign in, and scan your virtual card at till points to give back every time you shop.

- Sign up online: Get your free card now: <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/register>
- Call MySchool client services: 0860 100 445
- Email MySchool client services: cs@myschool.co.za
- Scan the QR code below to join now
- Link your existing Woolworths card to MySchool: <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/login>

